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24. THITHIA (pronounced thē-thē-ā) is a moderately large, nearly circular island of volcanic and limestone formation, 17 miles N.W. of Naiau and about the same distance S.S.W. of Mango. The island is about 4 miles in diameter, with the interior undulating grassland, rising in several peaks to a height of over 500 feet. Delana Bo, east of the center of the island, is said to be the highest point, but two peaks on the west marginal ridge are as high or higher. As usual, the ridges of upraised coral limestone are marginal, but here they are somewhat reduced in extent, there being also volcanic ridges on the south, west and north sides. A moderately large stream, flowing to the N.E., drains the central portion, and there are numerous smaller streams. Good water is plentiful.

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The island is surrounded by a fringing reef, 300 to 800 yards wide. There is a good anchorage off the village of Tarukua, at the N.W. point, with the prevailing S.E. to E. winds. Here landing is good at any time of the tide. There is also a temporary anchorage off Tambuta Plantation, a mile to the south. There is a small break in the reef opposite the village of Lomati, but as there is very little protection from the prevailing wind, vessels seldom anchor here.

Snakes are ~~said~~ said to be abundant. There are numerous lizards and land crabs. Besides the usual land birds, introduced mynas and "magpies" are abundant.

There are several caves in the N.E. cliffs, some containing bats, and one said to have a deposit of low grade phosphate.

Thithia is one of the most advanced and prosperous islands of Lau. There are five villages with a combined population of over 400. The residence of the Buli¹ at Tarukua, at the N.W. end, which has 75 natives and a small Chinese store. The district hospital, with a native practitioner in charge, is located here. Kambula², at the S.W.

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7 [Buli or chief - analyst]

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